CLAIMS

1. A polypeptide selected from:

(a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, or variants thereof; and

(b) a polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence translated from the polynucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3, or variants thereof.

2. A polypeptide of Claim 1, comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 75% identity to the an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.

3. A polypeptide of Claim, comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 85% identity to the an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.

4. A polypeptide of Claim 1, comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 95% identity to the an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.

5. An isolated and/or purified polynucleotide selected from:

(a) a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4;

(b) a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence of the 85th to 2700th nucleotides in the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a nucleotide sequence of the 43rd to 1851st nucleotides in the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or variants thereof;

(c) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 70% identity to the polynucleotide of (a) or (b);

(d) a complement to the polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (c);

(e) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence which is capable of hybridising to the polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (d); and

(f) a polynucleotide fragment of the polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (e).

6. A polynucleotide of claim 5, comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 75% identity to the nucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide (b).

7 A polynucleotide of claim 5, comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 85% identity to the nucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide (b).

8 A polynucleotide of claim 5, comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 95% identity to the nucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide (b).

9. A polynucleotide probe or primer comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of the polynucleotide of any one of Claim 5.

10. An expression vector for the expression of a human vanilloid receptor-ike protein in a recombinant host cell wherein said expression vector contains the polynucleotide of Claim 5.

11. A host cell which expresses a human vanilloid receptor-like protein wherein said host cell contains the expression vector of Claim 10.

12. A process for producing a polypeptide of Claim 1, which comprises culturing a host cell of Claim 11 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide from the culture medium.

13. An antibody immunospecific for a polypeptide of Claim 1.

14. A diagonostic kit for diagnosing a disease or a susceptibility to a disease associated with biological function of a human vanilloid receptor-like protein, which comprises a polynucleotide of Claim 5, or an antibody to a polypeptide of Claim 1.

15. A method for screening to identify modulators which modulate function of a polypeptide of Claim 1, which comprises contacting a test compound or sample with the polypeptide, and detecting an activity of the test compound or sample to modulate the function of the polypeptide.

16. A modulator obtainable by a screening method of Claim 15.

17. A pharmaceutical composition for treatment of conditions associated with biological function of a human vanilloid receptor-like protein, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a modulator of Claim 16 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. A non-human transgenic animal model for vanilloid receptor-like gene function wherein the transgenic animal has an alteration in vanilloid receptor-like function relative to a normal animal of the same species